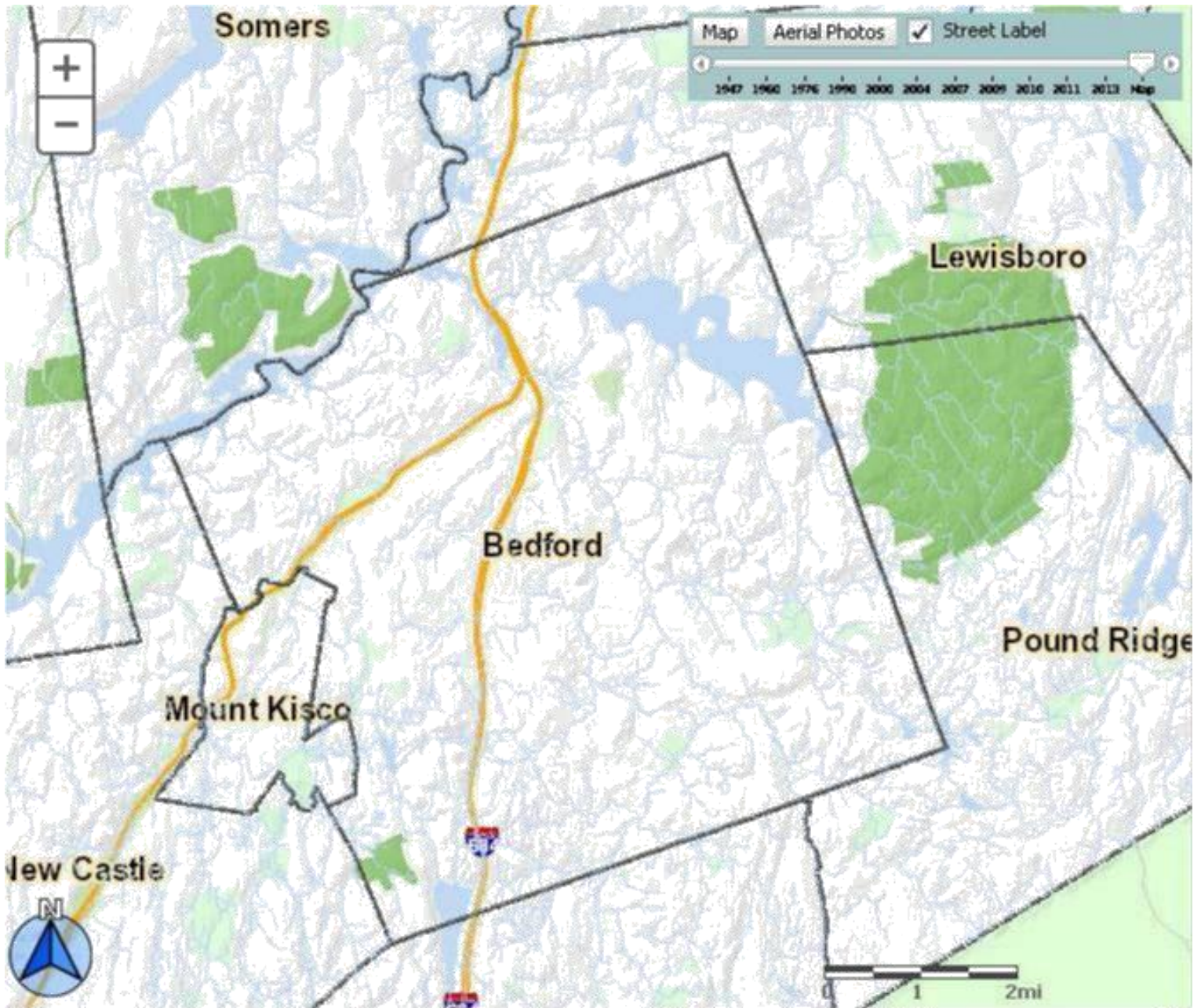


The Town of **BEDFORD** *New York*



2017 ANNUAL REPORT



Hydrology Map courtesy of Westchester County Geographic Information Systems.

TOWN OF BEDFORD, NY

Founded in 1680

Population: 17,335 (2010 Census Data)

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
TOWN OF BEDFORD
NEW YORK



FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017

TOWN OF BEDFORD
321 BEDFORD ROAD
BEDFORD HILLS, NY 10507

<http://www.bedfordny.gov/>

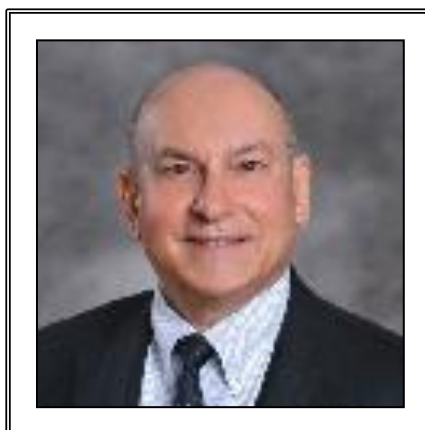
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TOWN GOVERNMENT

TOWN BOARD

2017



Chris Burdick
Town Supervisor



MaryAnn Carr
Board Member



Lee Roberts
Deputy Supervisor
Board Member



Don Scott
Board Member

TOWN GOVERNMENT

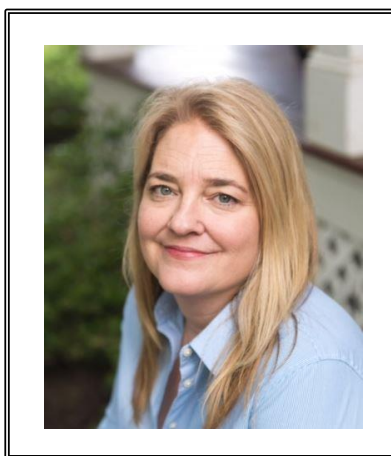
TOWN BOARD

The Town Board meets twice monthly (first and third Tuesdays or as set by the Board)

Town of Bedford Town House, 321 Bedford Road, Bedford Hills, NY 10507
Main phone number: (914) 666-6530 ▪ Fax: (914) 666-5249

The Town Board is a five-member board elect that consists of four Board Members and a Supervisor. The Board Members are elected for four-year terms, and the Supervisor is elected for a two-year term. The Town Board functions as a legislative body of the Town and is responsible for setting policy, adopting the annual budget, and enacting laws and resolutions for the “health, safety and welfare” of the Town’s residents. The Supervisor functions as the Chief Fiscal Officer and CHIEF Executive Officer. A Deputy Supervisor is appointed to assist with the duties of the Supervisor during his or her absence. All Town Board meetings are open to the public, and only certain legally sensitive issues may be discussed in a private executive session. Please refer to the Town’s website for the time, location and agenda of meetings.

We welcome our newest member of the Town Board, Kate Galligan, who joined the Board on January 1, 2018.



TOWN GOVERNMENT

TOWN CLERK



Lisbeth (Boo) Fumagalli
Town Clerk

Town of Bedford Town House, 321 Bedford Road, Bedford Hills, NY 10507

Hours of Operation: 8:30-4:30, Monday through Friday

Evening/weekend appointments are available by appointment for Town residents only.

Main phone number: (914) 666-4534 • Fax: (914) 666-5249 •

Email: townclerk@bedfordny.gov

The Town Clerk is elected to a four-year term and serves as the Records Management Officer and the Registrar of Vital Statistics. This office is responsible for the safekeeping of Town records and assists in local elections.

TOWN JUDGES

Erick P. Jacobsen
Justice



David A. Menken
Justice



The Town of Bedford has two Town Judges, each elected to a four-year term, holding sessions of Criminal Court, Civil Court and Traffic Court. Sessions are held in the Courtroom located at the Town of Bedford Town House, 321 Bedford Road, Bedford Hills, NY 10507.

2018 COUNTY, STATE & FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

County Executive
George Latimer
ceo@westchestergov.com
148 Martine Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601
(914) 995-2127

County Legislator
Kitley Covill
Covill@westchesterlegislators.com
148 Marine Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601
(914) 995-2810

County Clerk
Timothy C. Idoni
Cclerk@westchestergov.com
110 Dr. Marine Luther King Jr. Blvd.
White Plains, NY 10601
(914) 995-3080

NEW YORK STATE

State Senator
Vacant
222 Grace Church Street, Suite 300
Portchester, NY 10573
(914) 934-5350

Assemblyman
David Buchwald (D, Dist. 93)
buchwaldd@assembly.state.ny.us
125-131 East Main Street, Suite
204 Mount Kisco, NY 10549
(914) 244-4450

UNITED STATES

Senator
Charles E. Schumer (D-IN-L)
senator@schumer.senate.gov
780 Third Avenue, Suite 2301
New York, NY 10017
(212) 486-4430

Senator
Kirsten E. Gillibrand (D)
<http://gillibrand.senate.gov/contact/>
780 Third Avenue, Suite 2601
New York, NY 10017
(212) 688-6262

Representative
Sean P. Maloney (D, Dist. 18)
<https://seanmaloney.house.gov/contact/email-me>
123 Grand Street, Newburgh, NY 12550
(845) 561-1259

TOWN OF BEDFORD

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Bedford depends on its many dedicated volunteers, and we want to thank them for their many hours of service and active involvement and generous contributions to our community. The members of the Town's numerous boards, commissions and committees spend countless hours working for the benefit of the Town and its residents.

If you would like to become involved in volunteering for a board or committee, please contact the Town Supervisor, Chris Burdick at (914) 666-6530 or email him at supervisor@bedfordny.gov.

Applications and board/commission/committee descriptions can be found on <http://www.bedfordny.gov/>

BOARDS

Conservation Board
Board of Ethics
Planning Board
Recreation and Parks Advisory Board
Tree Advisory Board
Zoning Board of Appeals

COMMISSIONS

Historic Building Preservation Commission
Katonah Historic District Commission
Bedford Village District Review Commission
Wetlands Control Commission

COMMITTEES

Bedford Town Housing Committee
Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Bedford Energy Advisory Panel
Open Space Acquisition Committee
Bedford Recycling Committee
Bedford Cemetery Committee
Communications Advisory Committee
Filming Committee
Traffic Safety Working Group
Veterans Advisory Committee
Committee on Seniors

COUNCIL

Drug Abuse Prevention Council

TASK FORCE

Leaf Blowers

ANNUAL REPORT



Emergency Vehicles

Photo Provided by: Katonah-Bedford Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps

Fire Protection in each hamlet is provided through the efforts of wholly volunteer Fire Departments, which provide round-the-clock protection. Volunteers are vital to the departments and anyone interested should contact anyone of the Fire Departments.



Bedford Village Volunteer Fire Department
34 Village Green
Bedford, New York 10506



Bedford Hills Volunteer Fire Department
332 Bedford Road
Bedford Hills, New York 10507



Katonah Volunteer Fire Department
65 Bedford Road
Katonah, New York 10536
<http://www.katonahfd.org/>

TOWN OF BEDFORD

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department	Contact	Email	Telephone
Alarm Permits	Alarms	alarms@bedfordny.gov	914.666.7273
Animal Control	Dog Control Officer	dogcontrol@bedfordny.gov	914.666.4855
Assessor	Harold Girdlestone	assessor@bedfordny.gov	914.666.5149
Building Inspector	Alberto Ciraco	buildinginsp@bedfordny.gov	914.666.8040
Conservation Board	Jeff Osterman	conservation@bedfordny.gov	914.666.4434
Finance/Comptroller	Abraham Zambrano	finance@bedfordny.gov	914.666.8283
Historian	John Stockbridge	historian@bedfordny.gov	914.666.4745
Parking Permits	Mariann Harold	parking@bedfordny.gov	914.666.8097
Personnel	Joan Gallagher	personnel@bedfordny.gov	914.864.3835
Planning	Jeff Osterman	planning@bedfordny.gov	914.666.4434
Police Chief	Mel Padilla	bedfordpolice@bedfordny.gov	914.241.3111
Police Records	Records Clerk	bedfordpolice@bedfordny.gov	914.241.3111
Public Works/Commissioner	Kevin Winn	highway@bedfordny.gov	914.666.7669
Recycling	Public Works	highway@bedfordny.gov	914.241.2671
Recreation & Parks/ Superintendent	William Heidepriem	recreation@bedfordny.gov	914.666.7004
Town Supervisor	Chris Burdick	supervisor@bedfordny.gov	914.666.6530
Town Clerk	Lisbeth Fumagalli	townclerk@bedfordny.gov	914.666.4534
Town Court	Nancy Artese or Diane Georgio	court@bedfordny.gov	914.666.6965
Tax Receiver	Amy Pectol	receiver@bedfordny.gov	914.666.4475
Water Department	William Nickson	water@bedfordny.gov	914.666.7855
Wetlands Commission	Jeff Osterman	wetlands@bedfordny.gov	914.666.5140
Zoning Board (ZBA)	Alexandra Costello	zoning@bedfordny.gov	914.666.4585

TOWN SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

TOWN OF BEDFORD OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR

Chris Burdick
Supervisor

Lee V.A. Roberts
Deputy Supervisor

Bea Rhodes
Confidential Secretary to the
Supervisor



TOWN BOARD
Mary Beth Kass
Don B. Scott
MaryAnn Carr

2017 Annual Report



SUPERVISOR'S INTRODUCTORY LETTER

I am pleased to provide the 2017 Annual Report of the Town of Bedford which includes reports from each of our Department Heads, the Town Historian and a number of the Boards, Committees and Commissions. Accompanying this report are financial statements and documents which our Town Comptroller has provided.

We are fortunate to live in a community in which people care for one another, which we see virtually every day with literally hundreds dedicated to volunteer service whether in the fire departments, ambulance corps, museums, historic societies, service organizations or serving on Town boards, committees and commissions. As I write, I consider the outpouring of help members of the community gave one another with the Nor'easters which hit us.

Here in your Town government we have a dedicated and conscientious Town Board and staff which strives to provide the highest quality service and responsiveness to the community while staying within the property tax cap and being financially prudent. Thanks to cost conscious department heads, with special mention of our Comptroller, Abraham Zambrano, the Town is in an enviable financial position with strong fund balances (financial reserves).

- Creation of the Bedford Hills-Katonah Business Sewer District and commencement of design work for the sewer system.

TOWN OF BEDFORD

- Work begins on renovation and additions to the Police Station.
- Renovation of the historic Bedford Hills Train Station, coupled with an agreement with the MTA for a 25 year lease to the Town for \$1 per year.
- Historic Building Preservation Law overhauled to relax restrictions, cut the number of historic properties covered and streamline the process.
- Increase in Highway and General Fund balances
- Standard & Poor's re-affirmed the Town's AAA bond rating, the highest rating awarded, with fewer than 3% of municipalities earning it.
- Town Board adopted in December a 10 year Capital to ensure that the Town's physical assets, whether they be vehicles, buildings or roads, to name a few, are well maintained and replaced (vehicles) or renovated (e.g., the Police Station), as and when needed.
- The Town's Electric Vehicle charging stations were replaced with new, efficient stations and an additional station installed in Bedford Village Memorial Park (special thanks to the countless hours of work of Katonah resident Bob Kohler).
- 2017 Budget and Capital Plan provides increased funding for road paving, senior programs, traffic safety, IT upgrades, building maintenance, cost-effective hybrid and electric vehicles, pilot program for enhanced sewage treatment systems.
- Septic System Repair and Replacement Program reimbursed 50% of property owner costs with the total grants reaching \$346,000.
- Work continues on expansion of Adams Street Highway Yard
- Department of Public Works carried out a robust 2017 paving program and enhanced services to the community.
- In partnership with B2020, DPW launched a pilot program for food waste collection and compositing at the Recycling Center with the aim of boosting recycling rates
- Further progress achieved in digitizing Town records.

FINANCES**Property Tax Cap Compliant Budgets and Strong Financial Position**

I am pleased to report that each of the Town budgets since you bestowed on me the honor of serving as Town Supervisor has complied with the NYS Property Tax Cap. Most importantly, as mentioned above, we accomplished this while *improving* our fund balances (reserves) and adopting in December a prudent 10 Year Capital Plan to ensure that physical assets and requirements are well maintained.

On December 19, 2017 the Town Board adopted the 2018 Town budget which meets the Town Board's objectives of staying below the tax cap, maintaining or improving Town services and providing a sustainable financial course for the coming years. The budget carries a tax levy increase of 2.78% which is within the State tax cap of 2.79%

As detailed in Comptroller Abe Zambrano's report, the Town completed 2017 in a strong fiscal position. Due to conservative budgeting and the restraint which our department heads and staff exercised, aggregate expenses ran somewhat below budgeted levels and non-tax revenue was stronger than budgeted (tax revenue was as

TOWN OF BEDFORD

anticipated). This positive position will result in an increase in reserves (fund balances). We anticipate an approximate \$300,000 increase in fund balances for the General Fund and \$150,000 increase in fund balances in the Highway Fund with an estimated, unaudited year-end balance of \$7,626,384 (0.4% increase) and \$1,902,288 (0.85% increase), respectively.

Town Auditor Reports Strong Financial Position; Triple AAA Bond Rating Reaffirmed

Alan Kassay of the Town's auditors, PKF O'Connor Davies, in presenting the 2016 audit report to the Town Board last spring, concluded that the Town remains in a very strong financial position. Note that the 2017 audit report is not available as yet. At year-end 2016, the Town's general fund balances had increased, highway funds and special district funds remain strong, our internal controls were found to be sound and our debt levels are modest. This has resulted in Standard and Poor's rating agency having reaffirmed its top bond rating for the Town of Aaa/Stable, as mentioned above. This rating translates to real savings in the form of lower interest rates. The rating will have long term savings for residents with lower debt repayment than for municipalities with lower credit ratings. With our 10 Year Capital Plan in place as previously reported, the Town was put in a position to issue \$3,887,812 in bonds to carry out the 2018 components of the Capital Plan

Saving Taxpayer Dollars with Improved Efficiencies

Your Town government continues to improve efficiencies with our records digitization program: the Clerk's Office now has scanned more than 85% of its files; the Building Department scanned over 80%, Assessor's Office over 80% and the Tax Office over 40%. New IT and software upgrades continue to improve work flow and office efficiency; and the Justice Court improved court record management and storage policies and practices. The Capital Plan includes funds for new software which will save hundreds of hours of staff time each year enabling the Town to continue with lean staffing levels notwithstanding additional tasks under Federal, State and County laws and regulations.

TOWN SERVICES, IMPROVEMENTS AND CAPITAL PROJECTS

In addition to conscientious and speedy snow removal, road paving and road repairs and drainage work; the Police Department for its protection of the community (ranked as one of the safest in the state); and Recreation and Parks Department for the splendid and beautifully maintained hamlet pools, parks and other facilities and its well-regarded programs; and for the Building and Planning Departments that help residents and businesses work through applications and needs. Here are some of the improvements in services:

- **Westchester Power (Community Choice Aggregation)** Thanks to the Town's participation in Sustainable Westchester (SW), SW's Westchester Power continues to provide residents and small businesses a price guarantees lower than the benchmark of the twelve months previous to the adoption of the program. Through the date of this writing, Westchester Power has resulted in thousands of dollars in electric cost savings to Bedford residents and small business. And if you have questions about your electric bill, the highly responsive and courteous customer service at Westchester Power (call 914-242-4725 or e-mail jenna@westchesterpowers.org) is second to none. We are especially proud

TOWN OF BEDFORD

that Bedford is one of 15 Westchester municipalities that not only offers this attractive pricing through Westchester Power, but also promotes the development of non-fossil fuel energy resources.

- **Septic System Repair and Replacement Program.** In its second full year of operation, the program has reimbursed, as of this writing, \$495,000 to property owners whose septic systems failed and required either repair or replacement. With all \$3.5 million from Westchester County, under its Water Quality Improvement Program fund, the Bedford Program reimburses property owners 50% of the cost of repairs or replacements.

- **New Recycling Center** In its first full year of operation, the Department of Public Works operates the recycling center on Railroad Avenue. Our thanks to the New York State Department of Transportation for allowing us to use their land at no cost to the Town, saving us literally hundreds of thousands in land acquisition cost and making the upgrade project possible. The Recycling Center continues to offer Single Stream recycling, refuse disposal for Senior Citizens (60 and older), electronic waste recycling and new to 2017, a food composting program. We thank Winters Brothers and their staff for good operation of the facility.

- **Paving More Roads** The Town continued into 2017 its higher funding level for road paving at \$1.15 million from the previous \$1.1 million level, which enabled DPW to pave eight miles of roads. The 2018 approved budget and Capital Plan raises the funding level by \$75,000 to \$1.225 million.

- **Clerk's Office Increase in Permit Processing** The Clerk's Office had a very successful year handling all applications for film permits, saving residents and businesses the need to appear before the Town Board. The 2017 budget and Capital Plan will provide for even more online capability to serve our community better and more efficiently.

- **Traffic Court Improved Schedule** In 2017, the Justice Court had its third year with an improved schedule for vehicle and traffic matters, starting court earlier in the day to accommodate people who cannot miss an entire day of work to come to court to meet with a prosecutor and appear before a Judge. We managed well notwithstanding the reduced parking availability due to the renovation work on the Police Station.

- **Greater Community Use of Bedford Hills Train Station** In the winter of 2017 work was completed on the interior renovation at the Bedford Hills Train Station. Work was started in early February and was completed in advance of the March 6th Grand Re-Opening celebration. Interior work included wall partition removals, ceiling restoration, painting, new flooring, and new electrical and new lighting fixtures. Local contractors Wayne Fazzinga Roofing and Carpentry, J.C. Beach Electric, Atlantic Westchester HVAC with assistance from Town staff did incredible work on the building in a very short period of time. Community access and use of the station has greatly increased. We now have use by the Farmer's Market, the Bedford Hills Historical Museum, the Bedford Hills Library, The Community Center, Junior League of Northern Westchester, Antioch Baptist Church, the Bedford Hills Lions Club, Bedford Hills Neighborhood Association, the Bedford Democratic Committee, to name a few, taking advantage of the glorious facility. We also continued the extended hours for commuter and others' use of the lavatories (from 5:30 AM to 3 PM, Monday through Friday).

Sewer Plan, Renovating Town Facilities and Other Capital Projects

Sewer Plan for Bedford Hills-Katonah Business Districts Following the successful referendum late last winter to form the Sewer District and authorize \$1.2 million in sewer bonds, the Town Board hired Woodward and Curran as the

TOWN OF BEDFORD

engineers to design the \$20.5 million sewer system for the central business districts of Bedford Hills and Katonah with all but \$1.2 million in the Town's sewer bonds being provided by NYC Department of Environmental Protection and Westchester County. Only property owners and customers in the proposed district will pay for it. The sewer system will solve the worst septic problem in Westchester County and also the inability of property owners to provide any uses which utilize more water (such as restaurants). The district will serve Katonah Elementary School, St. Mary's rectory and school in Katonah and Bedford Park Apartments in Bedford Hills. The NYS Department of Corrections and Community Services (DOCCS) will turn over its underutilized wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) to the Town and DOCCS would become a district customer for its Bedford Hills correctional facilities. DOCCS will not charge the Town for the WWTP and first will perform a multimillion dollar upgrade of the WWTP. *Please see the accompanying 2017 Sewer District Report for further details.*

Supporting the Bedford Playhouse In a collaborative and successful private-public partnership, the Town continues to work closely with Friends of the Bedford Playhouse on its renovation project of the Playhouse premises. Special thanks to the Bedford Village Historic District Review Board, Planning Board, Planning Department and Building Department for their timely approval of the theater's plans.

Improving Parking Recognizing that parking is the lifeblood for our merchants, the Town Board has increased parking enforcement in the hamlets (to ensure turnover), changed parking limits in Bedford Village in response to recommendations of the Bedford Village Business Association and moved ahead with plans for a new municipal parking lot. The Capital Plan includes \$1.1 million for acquisition of vacant land off of Court Road from the Bedford Presbyterian Church. The parking lot will provide free municipal parking for businesses and their customers and clients in the hamlet.

Commuter Parking The Town Board moved ahead with a user-friendly online parking system through Parkmobile (which has parking systems for White Plains and Westchester municipalities) which should make the entire process far easier for residents, enable the Town to better evaluate utilization and issue more resident permits thereby reduce waiting lists.

Renovation and Addition to Police Station Work began last summer on the gut renovation of and additions to the police station which had been professionally assessed as functionally obsolete. The station building, formerly a restaurant, has not had any renovations or upgrades in over 40 years. The renovations project includes two additions and a conference room which will enable the department to hold training sessions which would include other police agencies with the prospect for revenues. The project is proceeding well, despite a financial and time set back with soil contamination encountered when footings were being dug. We lost two to three months and at least \$350,000 in unanticipated project costs.

Adams Street Highway Garage In 2014 the Town Board approved a \$2.5 million renovation plan for the Adams Street Highway Garage. The project necessitated relocating the adjacent recycling center to its new site on Railroad Avenue. As earlier reported, the Department of Public Works completed the

relocation of recycling center and last year completed the new salt shed which has proved very helpful for road treatment operations this winter. With the sewer system on its way, new opportunities have arisen for further cost-effective improvements to the Highway Yard and Garage. The Town Board approved in the 10 Year Capital Plan, an additional \$700,000 in funds for the mechanical maintenance building to provide adequately sized facilities for vehicle and equipment maintenance and allow the existing facility to be repurposed for vehicle storage.

2017 Park Improvements and New Activities

- **Arbor Day Events** – Sponsored by the Tree Advisory Board (TAB) marked the 17th year of recognition as a Tree City USA and was acknowledged with an Arbor Day Tree planting celebration at the entrance to Bedford Village Memorial Park. Two beautiful
- **Pin Oak trees** selected by the TAB were planted by the Parks staff.
- **KVIS Project Phase II** - In the Fall of 2017 the Parks staff working in concert with Katonah Village Improvement Society completed phase 2 of a beautification project at the Katonah Train Station. Over 600 perennials, plants, trees, shrubs and bulbs were added/planted in phase 2. Completed in mid-October this new planting area near the gazebo has greatly enhanced the look of the entrance area to the train station on Katonah Avenue. Phase 3 is anticipated for the Fall of 2018.
- **Katonah Memorial Park Pool** – In the Fall of 2017 the pool bath house exterior and interior ceiling and beams were cleaned and stained as part of the maintenance and upkeep of the building.
- **Katonah Memorial Park – Rasor Field** – In August of 2017 Rasor Field had the backstop replaced and safety fencing added. The player seating areas were renovated as part of the work. Tree work behind the backstop was performed as well.
- **Katonah Memorial Park – Pool Side Ball Field** – In November of 2017 the pool side ballfield had the backstop replaced and new safety fencing installed. Infield work will be performed in early spring prior to the 2018 softball/baseball season.
- **Bedford Hills Pool Bath House** – In September 2017 the exterior of the pool bath house was cleaned and painted. The interior epoxy floors were refinished at the same time.
- **BVMP Eagle Scout Project** - Candidate John Bush from Bedford Troop 129 and student at Fox Lane High School successfully completed his Eagle Scout project at Bedford Village Memorial Park in late August. His project is located at the Lapsley Memorial flagpole at the entrance circle. John's project involved the installation of 6 granite monuments representing each branch of the armed services featuring beautiful bronze plaques as well as flagpole inserts. The armed services flags will be displayed on the appropriate holidays throughout the year. Congratulations to John, his family and the many scouts who worked with him on this beautiful Eagle Scout project.
- **NEW – Wednesday Senior Swims** were introduced in 2016 at the Bedford Hills pool. Unfortunately the early season weather on Wednesday's did not cooperate with cool temperatures and rain

Increased Communication

My weekly newsletter has evolved into a summary of activities at the Town government level. We have expanded the comprehensive weekly Community Calendar

TOWN OF BEDFORD

compiled from information and website postings from community organizations. I've expanded the monthly Supervisor reports, and increased postings to the Town's websites, popular community Facebook groups and alerts and news reports. Also thanks to my confidential secretary, Bea Rhodes, we have more information than ever posted to the Town's website. We reply and post, as appropriate, to community Facebook pages as well as my Facebook page. We have informed the residents on a variety of subjects through mailings, eNews and other media outlets on a variety of subjects, including power outages and other emergencies, road closures, traffic safety improvements, the police station renovation project, the sewer project, Westchester Power, single stream recycling, septic system repair and replacement program, and relaxation of the Historic Building Preservation Law, Town Board meetings and decisions, to name a few.

Sustainability and Moving Ahead with Bedford 2020 Goals

The Town continues to work closely with Bedford 2020 to ensure the success of Community Choice Aggregation, increase Single Stream recycling rates, improve services at the recycling center; to provide better recycling containers in our hamlets, and consider other measures to move us closer to our goal of 20% in greenhouse emissions by 2020. Bedford proudly remains a leader in the state on sustainability leadership on several fronts. I am honored to have been re-elected in 2017 as co-chairman of Sustainable Westchester, a consortium of nearly all of the municipalities in Westchester County. We've been making excellent progress in bringing cutting edge sustainable programs to individuals, businesses and municipalities. I thank my colleagues on the Town Board for supporting the Town's participation in these efforts.

Traffic Safety Initiatives and Improvements

Through the work of the Traffic Safety Working Group (TSWG) with special thanks to Public Works Commissioner Kevin Winn, Police Chief Melvin Padilla and Planning Director Jeff Osterman, the Town implemented the following safety improvements in 2017:

- **Traffic Calming Measures – Bedford Village** Following development of plans with the Town's engineers, Hahn Engineering, revision of the plans based on comments from the Bedford Village Historic District Review Commission, the Town installed a raised crosswalk across Village Green road in front of the Bedford Fire House and a speed hump further west. The installations have been successful in slowing motorists from the west on Route 172 who turn onto Village Green.
- **Cherry Street** The Town is studying approaches to calming traffic while being mindful of some community concern about changing the character of the road. The Police Department installed variable message boards to encourage greater compliance with speed limits.
- **Valley Road/Cottage Place:** It was decided in October 2017 to install a concrete sidewalk approximately 200 feet long from Cottage Place to New Street, which would then allow pedestrians to safely cross at New Street with work scheduled to be performed in 2018.
- **Due to the success of the mobile variable message boards deployed previously,** the Town Board approved Police Chief Padilla's request for additional purchases and deployments.
- **Enforcement of safe operation of trucks and heavy vehicles continues** with additional details. Bedford is one of the few municipalities in the state of its size which works with the New York State Department of Transportation and the New

TOWN OF BEDFORD

York State Police to enforce weight limits and safe operation of trucks. The Town purchased truck weight scales and Police Chief Melvin Padilla successfully arranged for the training and joint enforcement details with NYS police. The department plans to increase the number of enforcement details.

- **Church Street/Babbitt Road** The primary concern we heard from the community is the safety of students walking to Bedford Hills Elementary School. A 200' sidewalk installation at the end of Church Street by Babbitt Road will allow student walkers to travel to a location where better sight distance would allow for safer crossing. The work has been scheduled to be completed in 2018.

- **Traffic Law Enforcement** The Police Department has placed an emphasis on enforcing speed limits, crosswalk observance, stopped school bus observance and other traffic safety laws. In 2017, the Department issued 3012 summonses for moving violations, 6800 parking summonses, made 19 DWI arrests and 32 suspended license arrests and 107 child safety seat inspections.

Partnering with the Town's First Responders

Launched as a forum to work together on storm and emergency preparedness, I expanded the scope of our regular meetings with the Town's first responders: fire departments, Katonah Bedford Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps and the Town's Police Department and Building Department. We now discuss and coordinate on a wide range of issues including building life safety matters; communication equipment and software; and alarm monitoring, to name a few. My thanks to each of these volunteer agencies for the time and effort they have taken in this effort.

Antioch Homes Affordable Housing

Working in partnership with Antioch Baptist Church, Westchester County and New York State, 12 affordable housing units were completed on schedule in the fall of 2017 thanks to the unstinting efforts of the Church and a hard-working team of NYS Office of Community Renewal, Westchester County Planning and Health Departments, the Town's Planning Department, Blue Mountain Housing Development Corporation, legal, architectural, engineering, landscaping and other professionals. I especially wish to thank the Planning Board, the Zoning Board, the Historic Building Preservation Commission and my colleagues on the Town Board for their timely approvals for the project.

The Town's successes would not have been possible without the dedication, hard work, and commitment of many people. We look forward to continued progress and achievement in 2018.

As always, I invite you to contact me to discuss or comment on any of the information contained in this Annual Report. Please e-mail me at supervisor@bedfordny.gov or call me at 666-6530. I'm here to listen, help and serve.

Warm regards,



Chris Burdick, Town Supervisor

TOWN OF BEDFORD



Bedford General Store – c. 1838 612 Old Post Road
Bedford Village, NY 10536

Photo provided by the Bedford Historical Society
[http://www .bedfordhistoricalsociety.org/](http://www.bedfordhistoricalsociety.org/)

Bedford Hills
46 Depot Plaza
Bedford Hills, NY, 10507-1808



Welcome to Katonah
Bedford Road
Katonah, NY 10536

ANNUAL REPORT



Lisbeth Fumagalli
Town Clerk

TOWN OF BEDFORD
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK



Nina Kellogg
Deputy Town Clerk

2017 Annual Report

The Town Clerks Office is known as the “Doorway” to local Government.

It is a central place for people to call or visit when they don’t know who else to call or see about a problem. We strive to supply information that we feel is important and helpful to all residents. In the last year we have continued to make improvements to our information to residents by creating “Welcome to Bedford” folders for new residents – a one stop guide for all items related to the town. In the rotunda and Clerk’s office we have available a wide selection of information on programs from hiking trails to energy saving tips and programs. Please stop by and take a look!

Over 200 years of birth, death and marriage records are maintained by this office and we are frequently asked to research records and provide documents. We act as the Town’s Records Access office as well as the keeper of Town Board minutes and legislative history. The Town Board minutes are on the Town’s web site and in 2017 we began importing minutes of permitting boards starting with the Planning Board. Our goal is to have the minutes of all boards on e-Code 360.

Another area of responsibility in the Town Clerk’s office is the issuance of licenses and permits including hunting and fishing licenses, marriage licenses, dog licenses, handicap parking permits, local licenses such as peddling and soliciting, cabaret, refuse and taxi cabs licenses, senior refuse tickets, filming and new this year is an Alcohol permit fee.

In looking back on 2017, our revenues for these licenses and permits decreased by 18%. This decrease was due again this year to Filming which closed the year at \$16,600 down from \$45,750 in 2016 and \$91,500 in 2015. Filming in Bedford is not something we can control therefore we have been working with our Filming Committee to put in place a campaign to convey to the filming industry that Bedford is “film friendly”. If you removed Filming from the equation our overall revenues actually went up 15%. Fireworks and Taxi Cab licenses were both up 60% from last year. Senior refuse coupons and recycling permits were both flat while EZ-pass sales and resident dog park permits were up slightly. Our vitals numbers (Marriage, Birth and Death) were up minimally.

ANNUAL REPORT

Records management is another very important responsibility of our office. We must ensure that all Town records are maintained for the appropriate retention period and they are securely destroyed when appropriate and permanent records are protected.

Our main goals continue to be “better ways of doing everything”. We have been working on the installation of new software to enhance our Laserfiche scanning system allowing us to better manage our scanned information bringing maximum efficiencies to our record management and information retrieval. We also purchased new FOIL software enabling us to track requests and respond within the NYS law.

The philosophy in the Clerk’s office is that the job description here is “whatever it takes” and we will continue to do whatever is required to serve the Town residents in Bedford.

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The philosophy in the Clerk’s office is that the job description here is “whatever it takes” and we will do continue to do whatever is required to serve the Town residents in Bedford.

TOWN OF BEDFORD
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY
JUSTICE COURT

Town Justices

Erik P. Jacobsen
David A. Menken



Court Clerk

Nancy D. Artese
Diane Georgio

Town Justice Court
2017 Annual Report

The Town of Bedford Justice Court, administered by Justices Erik Jacobsen and David Menken, continued in 2017 to work productively and efficiently in carrying out the administration of justice in the Town of Bedford. With a Court staff of five (5) full-time employees and one (1) part-time employee, we are dedicated to providing the best services possible to the residents of Bedford and all that come before the Court.

The Court in 2017 maintained its traditionally busy calendar. Matters which came before the Court on a weekly basis included cases ranging from criminal, landlord/tenant, small claims, vehicle and traffic, parking, and building and zoning code enforcement cases.

On the civil side, the Court hears actions seeking monetary awards up to \$3,000 and small claims proceedings for awards up to \$3,000. Often, individual litigants do not use an attorney in these matters and are not required to do so. The Court also handles landlord/tenant matters that may involve possible evictions, as well as money judgements for back rent.

On the criminal side, the Court handles matters involving the prosecution of misdemeanors and violations that were alleged to have been committed within the Town's geographic boundaries. The Court also conducts arraignments and preliminary hearings in felony matters. In addition, the Court hears Vehicle and Traffic law misdemeanors and traffic infractions.

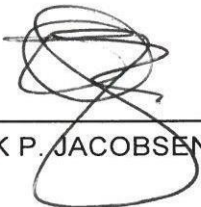
Bedford's Town Justices continue to be on call 24 hours a day and are often called upon to arraign defendants on misdemeanor and felony charges, as well as to act as Family Court Judges when the Westchester County Family Court is

not in session. In cases involving domestic violence, the Justices are also authorized to, and in appropriate circumstances do, issue orders of protection.

Eight enforcement divisions bring their matters to Bedford Town Court: (i) the Bedford Police Department; (ii) the Bedford Office of Code Enforcement; (iii) The Bedford Dog Ordinance Enforcement Office; (iv) the Bedford Department of Parking Enforcement (patrolling the seven municipalities); (v) the Westchester County Police Department (patrolling the Saw Mill Parkway); (vi) the New York State Police Department (patrolling 1-684); (vii) the MTA Police Department (with two train stations serving the Town) and (viii) the Department of Environmental Protection (patrolling the reservoirs and the dams).

The Court hears criminal cases on a weekly basis, every Wednesday evening, and holds traffic court twice a month. In 2017, the Court's busy calendar included over 300 new criminal cases and over 9,000 new vehicle and traffic cases. It is common to hear 30 to 40 criminal cases and occasionally up to 60 cases on a Wednesday evening.

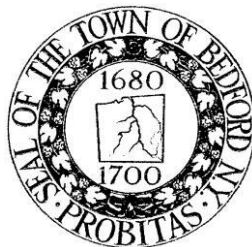
The Court has not increased its budget for 2017 in any significant manner, relying instead on increased efficiency and, where possible, on State grants. The Court has improved its record management and storage policies and practices. The Judges are confident that all Court employees will continue to provide excellent service to the Town, and look forward in 2018 to improving the Court while balancing the needs of the citizens, the budget and the staff.


ERIK P. JACOBSEN
DAVID A. MENKEN

TOWN OF BEDFORD



TOWN OF BEDFORD
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY
ASSESSOR'S OFFICE



Harold Girdlestone, *Sole Assessor*
hgirdlestone@bedfordny.gov

Tatiana Guaman, *Assessment/Tax Aide*
tguaman@bedfordny.gov

2017 Annual Report

Harold Girdlestone, Assessor
Tatiana Guaman, Assessment/Tax Aide

Summary: The Assessor's Office published the 2017 Tentative Assessment Roll on June 1, 2017 with a stated uniform percent of value of 10.24%. The 2017 assessment is based on the physical inventory of the property as of May 1st, 2017 and the market value as of July 1st, 2016. There were approximately 95 grievance applications filed with the Board of Assessment Review. The Final Assessment Roll was filed on September 15, 2017. Approximately 45 Small Claims Assessment Review petitions and 32 tax certiorari petitions were filed in contesting their final 2017 assessment.

In 2017, we digitally updated two additional tax maps and continue to annually re-scan updated property records cards into Laser fiche. Pending final town board approval of our proposed capital project, we plan to update electronically all of our 222 tax maps into a GIS and/or AutoCad system. We will be sending a RFP in 2018 to solicit bids to conduct this tax map maintenance and conversion project.

Late in 2017, eligible homeowners who received the STAR exemption will begin receiving a property tax relief check from NY State. The property tax relief amount will be based a based a percentage of their STAR saving depending on their income level. In each succeeding year the percentages will be increased and the property tax relief program will be fully implemented by 2019

2017 Assessment Roll Information

Valuation Date: July 1 st of Prior year	Assessment based on Market Value as of this date
Taxable Status Date: May 1 st	Publishing of the Tentative Roll
	Exemption Deadline filing date
	Assessment based on the physical condition as of this date
Grievance Filing Period:	June 1 st to the 3 rd Tuesday in June to contest your assessment
Grievance Day: 3 rd Tuesday in June	Grievance filing deadline
	Grievance Board convenes to hear grievance complaints
2017 Stated Level of Assessing:	10.24%
2017 Residential Assessment Ratio:	10.24
2017 State Equalization Rate:	10.24%

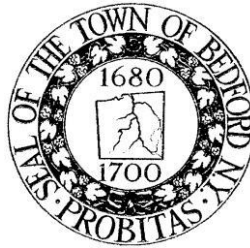
Duties/Functions of the Assessor's Office:

- To assess all real property in the Town of Bedford at the same uniform percentage of value, so as to ensure the fair and equitable distribution of the tax burden.
- To maintain and update all ownership information regarding each parcel.
- To gather and maintain parcel data regarding the physical characteristics of the property such as building style, size, age, condition, improvements etc
- To process all real property tax exemption applications according to NYS Real Property Tax Law.
- To make the assessment information, including challenge/grievance process, available to property owners in a fair, open, accessible and lawful manner.
- To be responsible for completing analysis and appraisals in Small Claims Assessment Review cases.
- To process tax parcel splits and mergers and to maintain and update Town tax maps.
- To collect, review, record, and value real property information from building permits, property sales, field review, and property inspections.
- To annually publish a Tentative and Final Assessment listing of all assessment data for all tax parcels

General Assessment Information: All exemption applications must be filed with our office by **MAY 1st**. Exemptions such Basic and Enhanced STAR, Veteran's, Volunteer/Ambulance, Aged, Clergy and Agricultural are available to those who qualify. Please contact us if you have any questions or require any general assessment or exemption information by the email, phone number or address listed below.

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY
ASSESSOR'S OFFICE**

Alberto Ciraco,
Building Inspector
John Winter
Assistant Building Inspector
Gabriel Beltre
Code Enforcement Officer



Alexandra J. Costello
Sr. Office Manager
Donna M. Berkowitz
Sr. Office Assistant
Michael Repp
Deputy Fire Inspector



2017 Annual Report

The Bedford Building Department is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the New York State Building Code as well as Bedford's Town Ordinances. The Building Department staff assists persons in all aspects of land use and guides them through the building process. This includes working with individuals looking for information on specific properties, responding to code questions, handling sensitive enforcement issues, guidance through the approval process of the variance boards and commissions, and permit issuance. Our goal is to provide a positive experience for all who use our services while adhering to State and Town Codes.

In 2017 our department was able to complete:

- The administration work, plan review and issuance of 1,431 permits which include construction of new buildings, interior & exterior alterations, additions, construction of accessory buildings, installation of solar panels, tree removal, sign installations, along with plumbing & electrical work;
- Approximately 1,260 inspections associated with building permits which include but are not limited to, footing, foundation, concrete under slab, waterproofing, framing, insulation, plumbing and final inspections;
- Code Enforcement responded to approximately 237 written complaints and conducted approximately 194 inspections related to the "Landlord Registry Law";
- We hired 2-part time assistant building inspectors to assist our department in conducting Landlord Registry inspections;

TOWN OF BEDFORD

- Our part time Fire inspector conducted approximately 415 fire inspections related to operating permits, places of Assembly and interval inspections;
- Our administrative staff has processed and administered all paper work regarding but not limited to, building applications, issuance of permits, certificate of occupancies, attaining zoning minutes, foil & search requests, receiving and entering complaints, answering all questions the public may have.
- Our 2-part time interns were able to scan over 1,000 building department files into our computer system.

This department is also responsible for maintaining the Town House, Police Headquarters, Bedford Hills Community House, 21 Park Avenue, 425 Cherry Street, Bedford Hills Train Station and Bedford Hills Post Office. Our two full time employees work diligently to keep these buildings clean and safe for staff and visitors that use these facilities.

Listed below are projects that were completed in 2017 in addition to the daily maintenance required.

- Removed and replaced the entire roof at the Bedford Hills Post office.
- Removed and replaced water damaged ceiling tile at the Bedford Hills Post Office.
- Assisted the Superintendent of Parks & Recreation in the interior renovation project completed at the Bedford Hills Train Station.
- We had a contractor complete some slate roof repair work at 321-Town House.
- Hot water heater replaced in 321-Town House.

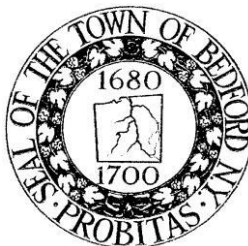
In 2018 we will continue to provide outstanding service to our residents and the community and explore new and more efficient ways to serve them.

Thank you,

Alberto Ciraco, Building Inspector

425 Cherry Street • Bedford Hills, New York 10507
Tel: (914) 666-4585 • Fax: (914) 666-2026
E-Mail: buildinginsp@bedfordny.gov

TOWN OF BEDFORD
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY
FINANCE DEPARTMENT



Abraham Zambrano,
Town Comptroller
 Elisa Alaimo, *Sr. Bookkeeper*

Mariann Harold, *Sr. Account Clerk*
 Caroline Bruschi, *Sr. Office Assistant*



2017 Annual Report

The Town of Bedford's Finance Department is the gatekeeper of the Town's finances and as such is responsible for ensuring compliance with State Law, regulations set by the Office of the State Comptroller and Town Board approved policies and procedures. Elisa, Missy, Francine and Carolina are dedicated, work well with each other and continuously search for ways to streamline processes and bringing efficiencies to the office. Individually, members of the staff are responsible for accounts payable, accounts receivables, payroll, payroll taxes, workers compensation insurance, and reporting to the Town Board and New York State. The department also maintains meticulous records on capital projects, banking, bonds and debt service. Additionally, they also manage the issuance of fire and burglary alarm permits and the daily operation of the Town's commuter parking lots. The following was achieved in 2017:

- The Town Board approved an updated Procurement Policy that updated purchasing guidelines and in accordance with Home Rule and NYS General Municipal Law, it incorporated Chapter 24 of the Town Code "Best Value Procurement" to give flexibility in purchasing and generating savings in tax dollars.
- The results of the 2016 annual audit indicated that the Town's finances are strong and that management had fairly presented the financial position of the municipality.
- As the result of strong financial management, along with the Town's ability to generate surplus even though the tax base ebbed slightly, Standard & Poor Global Ratings and Moody's Investors Services re-affirmed the Town's Aaa in

2017; a rating that is only earned by a small percentage of municipalities in New York State.

- Earlier in the year, we worked with the Town's Bond Counsel and Financial Advisors to prepare an "offering statement" in anticipation of issuing a \$10 million dollar bond to finance 2016 and 2017 projects that included \$7 million for the Bedford Police Station Renovations project.
- After several work sessions with the Town Board, a 10 Year Capital Plan was approved in December. The new 10 Year Capital Plan replaced the previously approved Capital Projects adopted in 2016 and it incorporates \$23,445,638 in projects for the years 2018 through 2027. The plan includes projects for traffic safety throughout the Town, vehicle replacement for the police, recreation, building and highway departments, IT upgrades, road rehabilitation and parking in Bedford Village along with zero emissions parks equipment and engineering for geo-thermal for the Town House and 425 Cherry Street.
- With the collaboration of the all the department heads, the Finance Department was able to present to the Town Board a budget that not only maintains or improves services to our resident, but stayed below the tax cap. On December 19, the Board unanimously approved the 2018 Town Budget.
- Financial projections on major non-tax revenues have been provided monthly throughout the year to the Town Board. Based on forecasts for year-end, at the time of this report, 2017 activity indicates that we will end the year adding to the reserves of both the General and Highway Funds.
- The management of parking at the Town owned commuter lots has been a challenge this year once again. Due to the increase in demand for non-resident parking, we have been analyzing daily activity in order to make the most out of Lot 3 on Woods Bridge Road. We continue to also monitor the main commuter lots in Bedford Hills and Katonah lots in order to be able to increase the number of spaces available for our residents. Based on the analysis, thus far, we were able to offer parking permits in the prime lots to more than 50 residents on the waiting list. As part of the Town's commitment to improve commuters parking efficiencies, the Board approved a paperless parking permit solution that will be implemented in 2018.
- On December 20, 2016, the Town Board approved the acquisition of Tyler Technology's MUNIS financial Software. The implementation of the software started in the May and we were able to "go-live" with financials in January 2018. Once fully implemented, the software will allow many processes to be streamlined, making staff more efficient; an added benefit to the software implementation is a substantial reduction in paper consumption. Due to staff and time limitations, the implementation of the payroll module had a later start and we are currently finalizing set up. We are anticipating "go live" with HR and payroll in April.

- The Year-end Payroll process was completed efficiently and seamlessly during the last week of the year. Employee W-2's were distributed or mailed in January.

As we move into 2018, it is important that we recognize the cooperation of all the department heads and staff during the year and just as important, the professionalism, cooperation and dedication of the staff in the Finance Department.

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8025 E-Mail: finance@bedfordny.gov

ANNUAL REPORT



Bedford Hills Free Library
 26 Main Street
 Bedford Hills, NY 10507
<http://www.bedfordhillsfreelibrary.org/>

Katonah Village Library
 26 Bedford Road
 Katonah, NY 10536
<http://www.katonahlibrary.org/>



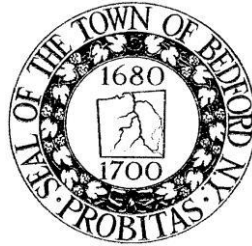
Bedford Free Library
 32 Village Green
 Bedford, NY 10506
<http://bedfordfreelibrary.org/>





John J. Stockbridge
Town Historian

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY
OFFICE OF THE TOWN HISTORIAN**



Christina Rae
Research Assistant

2017 Annual Report

The Historian's Office maintains archival materials for the Town. The office serves the public through the provision of genealogy and land records.

The office routinely receives inquiries from the public as to family or property histories, and offers the service of written reports upon request. Extensive property reports are completed on a fee basis. The office is open to the public for research Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

The office works closely with the Bedford Historical Society, the Bedford Hills Historical Museum, Friends of Bedford Burying Grounds, Westchester County Historical Society, and the Katonah Historical Library on research inquiries related to local history. We also exchange research briefs with other towns in Westchester County to broaden the collective knowledge base of historical information.

The Historian's office provides extensive research material to the Historic Building Preservation Commission. Using deed searches and early 20th century Assessor's records, property histories are provided to the HBPC.

In this past year, the Historian's office has made digital copies of the records of the Bedford Farmers Club, the Bedford Burying Grounds, and the full collections of the North Castle Sun and the Bedford Villager newspapers. Studies are ongoing on the history of Bedford's early schools and mills.

Looking forward to 2018, the office has embarked on a Landmark sign project for 19th century Bedford public schools and other private educational institutions.

John J. Stockbridge, Town Historian

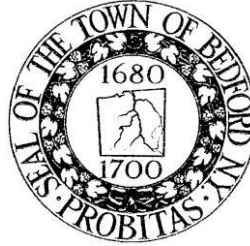
321 Bedford Road • Bedford Hills, New York 10507

Tel: (914) 666-4745

Mail: historian@bedfordny.gov

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY
PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT**

Joan M. Gallagher
Director of Personnel



2017 Annual Report

The Personnel Department is responsible for maintaining and coordinating all aspects of human resources for the Town of Bedford. These facets include but are not limited to: employee benefits for all active and retired employees; civil service rules/laws; union communications and contract terms; mandatory safety training; safety programs/policies; and, staffing & organization.

In order to maintain services to its residents, the Town hired nine individuals in 2017 to replace employees who previously retired/resigned: two Police Officers; one Sr. Office Assistant – Automated Systems in the Police Department; one Sr. Account Clerk in the Finance Department; one Code Enforcement Officer; one Laborer and one Motor Equipment Operator in DPW; a Program Coordinator for the DAPC; and, one School Crossing Guard.

The Town met with insurance brokers to ensure affordable benefits within the specifications of the union contracts. Bedford's primary health insurance provider, the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP) increased 8.4% which was well below that national average. The Town's secondary health care option continued to be CareConnect, however, notification was received that they would be dissolving in 2018. The Town changed dental insurers from MetLife to The Standard for a savings of approximately \$20,000.

The Town of Bedford remains in compliance with mandatory training requirements. These training programs include but are not limited to OSHA safety training, defensive driver training, anti-harassment training and workplace violence prevention training. The Safety Committee continues to meet every other month to review any injuries and accidents in order to make improvements to ensure the safety of Town employees.

321 Bedford Road • Bedford Hills, New York
10507 Tel: (914) 864-0045 • Fax: (914) 864-
0047 E-Mail: jgallagher@bedfordny.gov



Jeffrey Osterman, *Director of Planning*

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**



Anne Paglia, *Planning Secretary*

Francine Luppino, *Wetlands Secretary*

Annual Report 2017

Bedford Town Planning

Planning has been a part of the Town of Bedford's history since its inception in 1680 when 22 men from Stamford, after acquiring the "Hopp Ground," set out to plan for a meeting house, a grist mill on the Mianus River and a guying ground — and agreed no house lot would be less than three acres, but could be more. Town planning is a deeply rooted American tradition and is of critical concern today in Bedford as the Town faces the challenges of needed housing, prudent land use, and environmental protection.

Bedford's planning policies are implemented at three levels:

- The Town Board approves the laws establishing planning policy.
- The Planning Board, Wetlands Control Commission, Bedford Village Historic Review Commission, Katonah Historic Commission and Town Historic Building Preservation Commission assist in the formulation and carrying out of policy.
- The Zoning Board of Appeals has the authority to grant variances from the Zoning Ordinance.

To accomplish these goals, several tools are available to the Town:

- **The Town Comprehensive Plan**, a land use plan for the development of the community. This document is a statement of planning policies and goals of the Town to guide future growth and development.
- **The Zoning Ordinance**, a document adopted by the Town Board defining the various districts within the Town and the regulations concerning land uses and lot areas in these districts.
- **The Land Subdivision Regulations**, a part of the Code of the Town of Bedford dealing with procedures and standards under which new lots are created.
- **Specific Regulations concerning Wetlands, Steep Slopes and Ridgelines, Historic Districts and Historic Buildings.**

Town Comprehensive Plan

The Comprehensive Plan was last adopted in April of 2003. With the assistance of Pace University Land Use Law Center, the Planning Department has begun updating the Comprehensive Plan through a series of public meetings. These meetings were held with senior citizens, the general public and owners of commercial properties in the town to discuss the following topics: Commercial Development and Town Centers, Open Spaces, Environmental & Natural Resources, Transportation, Parks, Recreation and Civic Spaces, Town Services and Utilities, Housing Needs, Historic Preservation and Community Appearance, and Sustainability. More meetings were held in 2017, after which the direction of the Comprehensive Plan will be discussed by the Town Board and Planning Board.

Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Town has been working with the County of Westchester to prepare a joint Hazard Mitigation Plan with the County and other municipalities. The purpose of the Plan is to identify and describe hazards to the community and prepare a mitigation strategy to minimize risks from these hazards.

Planning Board Activities in 2017

The Planning Board conducted 19 public meetings in 2017, during which the Board considered various permit applications and discussed land use policy issues. The Board also took 6 field trips to inspect 7 individual properties proposed for development.

A total of 31 formal resolutions were approved by the Board during the year for development projects of all types, including minor subdivisions, accessory cottages and apartments, an outdoor café and the expansion of the Bedford Union Cemetery.

Wetlands Control Commission Activities in 2017 The Wetlands Control Commission held 6 meetings in 2017, reviewing applications for activities within a wetland or wetland “buffer,” lands within one hundred feet of a watercourse or wetland. The Commission took 9 field trips to review these applications. During the year, the Commission approved 14 permits for these activities. In addition, 18 Administrative Permits were approved by the Wetlands Permit Official for minor activities.

Historic Building Preservation Commission Activities in 2017

The Town Board adopted major amendments to the Historic Building Preservation Law in 2017. The amendments included a revised Survey of Historic Buildings, a two-tiered system of regulation, a revised appeals process and clearer definitions of regulated actions.

The Historic Building Preservation Commission held 8 public meetings and 7 work sessions in 2017 to review applications under Section 71-25 of the Town Code. The Commission took 7 field trips during the year to review 20 building applications. During the year, the Commission reviewed 18 proposed historic classifications and approved 1 Determination for a historic structure.

Department Activities

The staff of the Planning Department also spent significant time on the following activities in 2017:

- Creation of the Bedford Hills-Katonah Business Sewer District.
- Processed 32 applications for reimbursement under the Town’s Septic System Repair, Remediation or Replacement Reimbursement Program totaling \$346,000 in direct grants to property owners.

- Revisions to Town regulations on horses.
- Analyzing traffic calming measures throughout the Town.
- Locating electric vehicle charging stations.

Jeffrey Osterman, Director of Planning

425 Cherry Street • Bedford Hills, New York
10507 Tel: (914) 666-4434 • Fax: (914) 666-
2026 E-Mail: Planning@BedfordNY.gov

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Melvin Padilla
Chief of Police

***2017 Annual Report***

The Town of Bedford Police Department is a full time, full service police department with 40 sworn officers serving a community of approximately 18,000 residents over roughly 40 square miles. Uniformed officers of the Patrol Bureau provide services along approximately 161 miles of roadway within the town, as well as assistance along Interstate 684 and the Saw Mill River Parkway. The Bedford Police Department also maintains a full service investigative division with detectives that investigate all criminal cases that are reported annually.

2017 Statistics at a glance:

- 28,720 Calls for Service
- 1717 Alarm Call Investigations
- 121 Criminal Case Investigations
- 53 Arrests (including 19 DWI and 32 for suspended license/registration)
- 3,012 Summonses Issued
- 6,873 Parking Summons Issued
- 107 Child Safety Seat Inspections performed
- 517 reported motor vehicle accidents (114 injuries, 0 fatalities)

Calendar Year 2017 Highlights:

- The Police Headquarters renovation project officially commenced with ground breaking in February 2017 after approximately two years of planning. Unforeseen delays caused a projected date of completion of late summer 2018 but a great deal of progress occurred at year end.

The Bedford Police Department entered into a partnership with several Northern Westchester Police Departments and Westchester County Offices called the Northern Westchester Risk-Reduction Team. The NWRRT is a collaborative approach to provide safety to domestic violence victims as well as to ensure accountability to offenders. The purpose of this program is to identify high risk domestic situations while at the scene of a domestic incident through the completion of a domestic violence lethality screening and making proper referrals to advocacy resources based on the results of that screening.

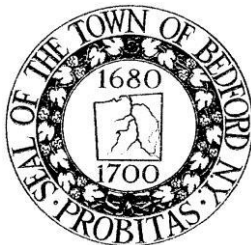
- Two additional variable message boards and one trailer were purchased in 2017. These message boards continue to be used to alert motorists of their speed in relation to the speed limit in an attempt to gain increased compliance. These signs are also used to alert motorists to traffic conditions, detours, and special events throughout the Town.
- The Police Department was able to secure a grant from Westchester County to purchase training safety equipment to enhance mass casualty response preparedness here and throughout the Northern Westchester region. This will allow the Department to conduct larger scale training scenarios that involve mutual aid from neighboring jurisdictions, as well as Fire and EMS integration.
- The updated version of the Police Department records management system, Impact 3, was installed in late 2016 but went live in early 2017. This updated version enhances the department's ability to maintain records and provide necessary data to officers and the public. Advancements in searching and producing reports, as well as a new data sharing interface allows for more intelligence lead policing based on data and trends.

Melvin Padilla Jr.
Chief of Police
Bedford Police Department



Kevin Winn
P.E. Commissioner
 Andrew Rosafort
Road Foreman

TOWN OF BEDFORD
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



Robert Mascianica
Deputy Commissioner
 William Nickson
Water Foreman

2017 Annual Report

The Bedford Department of Public Works (DPW) is pleased to serve Town residents and strives to provide excellent service in a cost effective manner. We are proud of our dedicated employees who deliver these services to you.

DPW consists of three divisions: Highway, Water, and Recycling. The Highway Division is responsible for maintaining 128 miles of roads and roads and 14 miles of sidewalk. Employees plow snow, repair roads, install and maintain drainage systems, and maintain commuter parking lots and bridges throughout Bedford. The Water Division is responsible for operation and maintenance of the Town's four water districts. The Recycling Division oversees the Adams Street Recycling Center, which is operated by an independent contractor. A wealth of recycling information can be found at <http://www.bedfordny.gov/departments/dpw/recycling/>

In 2017 Bedford DPW's accomplishments included:

Highway and Recycling Divisions:

Increasing road paving funds from \$1.1 million to \$1.15 million through a combination of operating and capital funds. DPW paved 8 miles of roads and enhanced the level of service to our residents.

Installed new drainage on Guard Hill Road between The Narrows and Clark Road to reduce erosion and improve road conditions.

Replaced deteriorated guard rail.

Continued the process of expanding our Bedford Hills Highway Yard:

Completed construction and site work for our new Adams Street winter materials storage facility in order to store adequate quantities of salt and sand in compliance with applicable environmental regulations.

Much of the construction was performed by Town employees, substantially reducing the cost of the project.

In conjunction with B2020, implemented a pilot program for food waste collection for composting at the recycling center in order to improve recycling rates.

Water Division:

Continued a valve replacement project in the Consolidated District in order to improve the reliability of our distribution system.

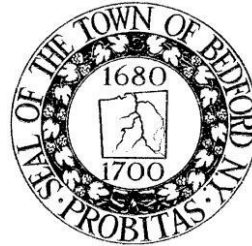
Replaced booster pump in the Farms Water Plant to maintain system reliability.

301 Adams Street • Bedford Hills, New York 10507
Tel: (914) 666-7669 • Fax: (914) 666-4987
E-Mail: kwinn@bedfordny.gov



Bill Heidepriem
Superintendent

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY
RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT**



2017 Annual Report

Bedford Recreation and Parks Department

The ongoing goal of the Town of Bedford Recreation and Parks Department is to offer a variety of recreation programs and services along with providing well maintained safe park facilities for the residents of the Town of Bedford to participate in and enjoy. In addition to the variety of programs offered the R&P Department has a number of partnerships with community organizations and businesses that further enhance recreation and leisure services and opportunities within the Town. The Recreation and Parks Department has a full time staff of 4 full time Recreation staff, 2 administrative support staff and 7 full time parks staff. The Recreation and Parks Department employees over 250 seasonal part time/ full time staff to support the programs offered and to assist with the maintenance of our park facilities, historical properties, cemeteries and other outside properties. Most of these seasonal employees are local high school and college students.

Recreation & Parks Highlights 2017

Spring - Summer – Fall - Winter Activities

Online program registration was introduced in the spring of 2015 for most of the Recreation program offerings. It has continued to grow in popularity for those unable to come into the office during normal work hours.

NEW - Due to limited parking at the Town campus offices during the renovations at the Police Station the Town Board temporarily suspended the 2.5% fee associated with credit card use with online registration. This incentive was well received by the public and reduced parking issues at the 425 Cherry street offices and greatly increased resident's use of our online program registration option.

The annual Spring Egg Hunt featuring beautiful weather and, 8,000 colorful candy filled plastic eggs and the “Spring Bunny” was held in mid-April in partnership with the John Jay Homestead with over 325 participants.

The Flashlight Egg Hunt was held at Bedford Village Memorial Park with over 2,000 eggs and other special treats to the delight of over 75 participants.

The annual Fishing Derby, held at the Bedford Hills Memorial Park on May 7th, had 87 participants. The Sportsman’s Club of Northern Westchester was on hand again this year to assist our young anglers in need! This event continues to receive great support from the Bedford Hills Neighborhood Association who for the fifth year in a row donated \$400.00 to cover the prizes awarded.

The Learn to Ride Bike & Car Seat Inspection Program was offered on May 20th (rain date) at the Bedford Hills Memorial Park and was a co-sponsored event with the Bedford Police Department. There were 14 learn to ride participants and 2 car seat inspections performed.

Three popular kids and adult Paint Escape programs were held in 2017. Events were held in March, June and December at the Bedford Hills Community House. A Total of 116 “artists” participated in these events.

FREE - Summer Concert at Katonah Memorial Park – Held July 7th – This summer time tradition was sponsored by the Katonah Memorial Park Association in cooperation with the Recreation and Parks Department and featured **“The Griffin Anthony Band”**. The concert was well attended by many Town residents and their guests.

FREE - Annual C&M Movie Night” sponsored by the Chowder and Marching Club was scheduled at Bedford Village Memorial Park on July 14th featuring the film **“The Secret Life of Pets”** was postponed due to inclement weather. The movie was rescheduled as part of the Community Family Camp Out activities in September at the park.

FREE – “Park It in Bedford” summer entertainment series which was reintroduced to the summer offerings in 2016 enjoyed a full line up in 2017. To compliment the C&M Movie Night and Katonah Memorial Park Associations free summer events, the Town sponsored additional entertainment at each of the three parks for the community to enjoy.

NEW – Wednesday Senior Swims were introduced in 2016 at the Bedford Hills pool. Unfortunately the early season weather on Wednesday’s did not cooperate with cool temperatures and rain

Swim and Dive Team Programs at the Bedford Hills (59 members), Katonah (100 members) and Bedford Village (62 members) pool facilities. All three teams enjoyed successful fun filled seasons. There were 221 youngsters ages 6-18 registered in the program in 2017. The Katonah S&D team hosted their annual invitational in July.

Pool & Library Partnerships - Pool side Story Time at the Pools – Was offered at each pool facility this past summer in cooperation with our three wonderful libraries. In addition the Bedford Village and Bedford Hills Libraries offered a Book Cart – “Take a Book / Swap a book” carts for the enjoyment, making it easier to “dive” into a good book and read in the summer!

Summer Camps in Bedford saw another summer of fun and great weather. Bedford hosts three main camps held in the parks, Bedford Hills (203), Katonah (137) and Bedford Village (101) along with two Tiny Tot Camps (128) and one Teen Get A Way Travel Camp (41). In 2017 there were 610 children ages 3 ½ through 13 registered in the various camp programs. In addition to the regular camp offering there were a variety of sports clinics and specialty camps offered after the camp season was over in early August.

Bedford PBA hosted their annual free lunch and ice cream for the Bedford Day Camps at Bedford Village Memorial Park as part of the annual BH, KT and BV Camp Carnival.

The 3rd annual Community Family Camp Out was held on September 9th at Bedford Village Memorial Park. Over 45 families registered for this event. Special thanks to the members of Boy Scouts Troop #1 Katonah for their assistance. Special thanks to the Chowder and Marching Club for their generosity in rescheduling the C&M Movie Night as part of the Camp Out!

Ladies Bingo was another full house of fun and excitement at the Bedford Hills Community House on October 27th. Over 75 donated prizes from 41 local Town of Bedford businesses were donated for this annual event with over 50 ladies in attendance.

Bedford Community Theatre (BCT) fall production of ***The Secret Garden*** performed to enthusiastic crowds during the 8 shows that covered two weekends in November at the BHCH. The show had a cast of 24 talented performers.

Bedford senior adults were treated to two delicious luncheons in 2017. The annual St. Patrick's Day luncheon featuring a great Irish meal of corned beef, potatoes and cabbage was served along with Irish music and did not disappoint this year. The Holiday luncheon was held in December with a good crowd at the Bedford Hills Community House. A delicious hot meal along with festive holiday music made for a wonderful afternoon of fun, good food and friendship.

The 13th Annual Turkey Trot Road Race was held the Saturday after Thanksgiving with the finish line at the Bedford Village Memorial Park. The all volunteer Turkey Trot Committee was pleased to report that the race registration was sold out (as it is every year) at the capacity of 475 runners.

Our annual Breakfast with Frosty event was held at the BHCH on December 9th with 81 participants registered. The event entertainment was provided by Seth Dale.

Youth and Adult Tennis lessons continue to be sponsored in cooperation with the Saw Mill Club at each park facility this past spring, summer and fall tennis seasons. The Saw Mill Club also partners with the Town in offering late fall and winter platform tennis lessons at the Katonah and Bedford Village courts.

The fast paced game of Pickleball was first introduced to Bedford in the Fall of 2016 and continued to enjoy good crowds at Thursday Night and Saturday Morning Open Play sessions at the Bedford Hills pickleball (basketball) courts in the Spring, Summer and Fall in 2017.

The Bedford Meals on Wheels program – utilizing an all-volunteer delivery staff delivered 5,160 meals an average of 430 per month to Town of Bedford residents in need.

The Canine Commons Dog Park – Through the Town Clerk's Office, 304 dog park permits were sold in 2017. This is an increase of 5 permits sold surpassing the record of 299 permits sold in 2016.

Miscellaneous Highlights 2017

Arbor Day Events – Sponsored by the Tree Advisory Board (TAB) marked the 17th year of recognition as a Tree City USA and was acknowledged with an Arbor Day Tree planting celebration at the entrance to Bedford Village Memorial Park. Two beautiful Pin Oak trees selected by the TAB were planted by the Parks staff.

The Cemetery Committee – An all voluntary group continued to work tirelessly in 2017 on cemetery restoration projects in various cemeteries throughout the Town. The committee coordinated the restoration of many headstones throughout the year with contractors who specialize in these type of restorations. In 2017 the Committee worked successfully on phase 1 of many with the restoration/rebuilding of 110 feet of stone wall at the Buxton Cemetery. The committee works closely with the Recreation & Parks Department and Town Clerk's Office

NEW – In winter of 2017 work was completed on the interior renovation at the Bedford Hills Train Station. Work was started in early February and was completed in advance of the March 6th Grand Re-Opening celebration. Interior work included wall partition removals, ceiling restoration, painting, new flooring, and new electrical and new lighting fixtures. Local contractors Wayne Fazzinga Roofing and Carpentry, J.C. Beach Electric, Atlantic Westchester HVAC with assistance from Town staff did incredible work on the building in a very short period of time.

KVIS Project Phase II - In the Fall of 2017 the Parks staff working in concert with Katonah Village Improvement Society completed phase 2 of a beautification project at the Katonah Train Station. Over 600 perennials, plants, trees, shrubs and bulbs were added/planted in phase 2. Completed in mid-October this new planting area near the gazebo has greatly enhanced the look of the entrance area to the train station on Katonah Avenue. Phase 3 is anticipated for the Fall of 2018.

Katonah Memorial Park Pool – In the Fall of 2017 the pool bath house exterior and interior ceiling and beams were cleaned and stained as part of the maintenance and upkeep of the building.

Katonah Memorial Park – Rasor Field – In August of 2017 Rasor Field had the backstop replaced and safety fencing added. The player seating areas were renovated as part of the work. Tree work behind the backstop was performed as well.

Katonah Memorial Park – Pool Side Ball Field – In November of 2017 the pool side ballfield had the backstop replaced and new safety fencing installed. Infield work will be performed in early spring prior to the 2018 softball/baseball season.

Bedford Hills Pool Bath House – In September 2017 the exterior of the pool bath house was cleaned and painted. The interior epoxy floors were refinished at the same time.

BVMP Eagle Scout Project - Candidate John Bush from Bedford Troop 129 and student at Fox Lane High School successfully completed his Eagle Scout project at Bedford Village Memorial Park in late August. His project is located at the Lapsley Memorial flagpole at the entrance circle. John's project involved the installation of 6 granite monuments representing each branch of the armed services featuring beautiful bronze plaques as well as flagpole inserts. The armed services flags will be displayed on the appropriate holidays throughout the year. Congratulations to John, his family and the many scouts who worked with him on this beautiful Eagle Scout project.

Thank You:

Betsy Smith a lifelong resident in the Katonah hamlet “retired” as a member of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee after 24 dedicated years. Betsy was always a vocal supporter of the Katonah Memorial Park and played an active role in the many improvements that were made over the last 24 years. Betsy was a wonderful advocate for the residents of Bedford and great steward of the Recreation and Parks Department as a valued member of the RPAC.

With Gratitude and Happy Retirement:

To Pete Welch a 13 year member of the Parks crew who retired from the Town at the end of December. Pete's incredible talents in plumbing and his jack of all trades skills played a big part in the success the Parks Department enjoyed in maintaining the Town of Bedford Parks and facilities at such a high level.

In Memory:

In April Gus Gasparino a long time summer seasonal staff member of the Bedford Hills Pool “family” passed away. Gus had “retired” at the end of the 2016 pool season after 11 dedicated years with the Recreation and Parks Department. Gus was a loyal,

honest, sincere and hard-working employee and a true professional but most of all our friend.

In October John “Jack” McMahon a member of the Recreation and Parks Advisor Board for over 30 years passed away. Jack “retired” from the PRAC in 2016. A man of great character, Jack is missed by all whom he came in contact with.

Recreation & Parks Staff:**Recreation**

Bill Heidepriem, Superintendent of Recreation and Parks
Daryl Ann Sudlow, Assistant Superintendent of Recreation
James Whiting, Recreation Supervisor
Kimberly O’Brien, Recreation Supervisor
Susan DeFonce, Office Assistant
Kim Kowalski, Senior Office Assistant

Parks

Tom Megna, Parks Foreman
Mark Morin Assistant Parks Foreman
Richard Pochintesta, Fleet Mechanic
John Goodman, Parks Maintenance
Matt Halpin, Parks Maintenance
Matt Van Dorn, Parks Maintenance

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The Cross River Reservoir, located east of Katonah, is one of several reservoirs that feed water to New York City. The Reservoir is open to fishing and boating, but only row boats are allowed. Access is provided by the New York City DEP through a free NYC DEP watershed access permit. Boats are allowed on these waters from April 1st to December 1st of each year. The Cross River Reservoir is home to Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass, Brown Trout, Chain Pickerel, carp, Panfish. Walkers, joggers and bikers can also enjoy the Cross River Reservoir on a one-quarter mile dirt path located atop of the Cross River Dam between Reservoir Road and Mount Holly Road in Bedford.

John Jay Homestead State Historic Site located in Katonah, NY. At the John Jay Homestead you can tour John Jay's Bedford Home, hike the property trails, or enjoy the 7 beautiful gardens. For more information visit <http://johnjayhomestead.org/>.

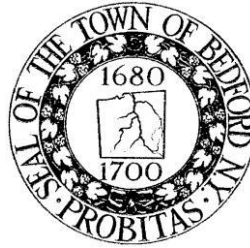


Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts is a 1930s Renaissance Revival estate. Today the property is known as a destination for live music, educational programs, and beautiful gardens and grounds. Caramoor is located at 149 Girdle Ridge Road, Katonah, NY. For more information visit <http://www.caramoor.org/>.



**TOWN OF BEDFORD
WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY
RECEIVER OF TAXES**

Amy M. Pectol
Receiver of Taxes



2017 Annual Report

The Town of Bedford Tax Receiver's office is responsible to collect all County, Town, Special Districts, and School taxes for all properties that are within the Town of Bedford. There are currently 6292 parcels of land in the town of which 5946 are taxable.

This tax office collects for three different school districts that have property with the Town of Bedford. These districts are Bedford Central, Katonah-Lewisboro and Byram Hills. The school tax year runs from July 1 to June 30 with due dates of 9/30 for the first half payment and 1/31 for the second half payment. In 2016 this office collected \$68,136,230 in base taxes and \$229,404 in penalties.

In addition to school taxes this office collects taxes for the county, town, highway, special districts and three fire districts. These taxes are more commonly known as property taxes. This tax year covers a calendar year and is collected in April of each year. During 2016 the tax office collected \$46,146,106 in taxes and \$55,713 in penalties.

The one major change in 2017 that occurred in the tax office came very late in the year. On December 22nd Governor Andrew Cuomo signed an executive order allowing for prepayment and partial payment of the 2018 taxes. The executive order expired on December 31, 2017 at 11:59 pm and with the holidays upon us the town had to act swiftly so the residents of the town could take advantage of this opportunity. The tax office worked closely with the elected officials, multiple departments, legal counsel, auditors and our software company to implement and execute this collection. We opened to the public on December 27th, and by the time the executive order expired we had over 1100 residents pay and collected \$11,027,697 towards the 2018 County & Town tax bill.

It has been a goal since I became tax receiver in 2006 makes the tax as automated and accessible as possible to everyone. In 2014 we were able to expand this type of service to include tax history and the emailing of bills and receipts to our residents. Our on-line payment option which has been available since 2008 continues to grow in popularity. This payment option allows taxpayers to pay taxes from home up until 11:59pm on the due date using a variety of payment options. We now accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover or by electronic debit from a checking account. I will continue to look for new options to make tax information more conveniently available to the current and future resident of the Town of Bedford.

**BEDFORD HILLS/KATONAH BUSINESS SEWER DISTRICT
2017ANNUAL REPORT**

The Town of Bedford has created a public sewer district to provide sewers to the commercial business districts of Bedford Hills and Katonah and including the Bedford Park Apartments, Katonah Elementary School and St. Mary's School and Rectory. The district was formed by a successful referendum of property owners within the district in March 2017, with a 94% positive vote and over 80% voter turnout.

Presently, wastewaters in these districts are treated by septic systems and cesspools, many of which are beyond their useful life. Under an agreement in the late 1990s with Northern Westchester municipalities, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) established and funded the East of Hudson Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP) to help finance the cost of wastewater treatment facilities, such as a sewer system. DEP also established a program to upgrade nearby wastewater treatment facilities at Bedford Park Apartments in Bedford Hills (BPA), the Katonah Elementary School (KES) and the property of St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Katonah (St. Mary's). These three sites will also be served by the proposed sewer district.

Sewage from these areas will be sent to and treated at the existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility operated by the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS). Ownership of this plant will be transferred to the Town.

The Bedford Hills and Katonah business districts lie within the Croton Watershed system of New York City's water supply and are close to the Cross River Reservoir. This focus area has been identified as a Priority Project by the Northern Westchester Watershed Committee who have committed to expend WQIP funds for the creation of this sewer district.

In addition to concern regarding treatment of wastewater from these areas, property owners within the proposed district have expressed concern about the vitality of their businesses, given the restrictions and in many instances inability to change or expand uses, such as from a "dry use" to a restaurant. The DEP has stated that change or expansion of use will be possible within the sewer district.

The total capital cost for establishing a new sewer district and building a collection system is estimated at \$20,459,800. The Town will receive up to \$6,500,000 from Westchester County's WQIP Funds and up to \$12,800,000 from DEP. The outside funding totals up to \$19,300,000. Therefore, the project costs will be funded largely through these sources. Based on the estimated project cost and the outside funding commitments, the Town will fund the estimated balance, or \$1,200,000, through issuance of sewer bonds. Additional user charge revenue will be required to fund the debt service to repay the sewer bonds and will be based on water usage and assessed value. All debt service for this borrowing will be paid for by property owners within the sewer district. No cost will be allocated to property owners outside of the sewer district.

The Town has hired Woodard and Curran consulting engineers to design the sewage collection system. As of December 2017, the project is in the detailed design phase, with

submission to regulatory agencies expected in January 2018. The anticipated project schedule is:

- Complete design and regulatory approval June 2018
- Receive Bids for Construction Work August 2018
- Start Construction October 2018
- Complete Construction April 2020

This is an aggressive schedule, with the intention of providing service to district customers as soon as possible. There is the possibility that delays may occur due to regulatory review or other matters beyond the Town's control.

TOWN OF BEDFORD



Bedford Town House
321 Bedford Road
Bedford Hills, NY 10507

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, COUNCIL, TASK FORCE

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW (BAR)

The Board of Assessment Review (BAR) is a three member quasi-judicial body appointed by the Town Board to staggered five year terms. Appointed terms commence on October 1st.

The Board of Assessment Review hears complaints against tentative property assessment values. Members of the BAR are charged with judicial responsibility to hear and weigh the facts, and apply appropriate laws and reasoning to the facts in a fair and judicious manner. BAR members are expected to have knowledge of local property values, and are periodically required to attend BAR training.

Applications for review of assessments are to be filed in the Assessor's office beginning on June 1 (taxable status date) thru Grievance Day, the third Tuesday in June. On Grievance Day, owners can speak and meet directly with the BAR to provide any information they deem important or relevant. The BAR can receive information from both the property owners and the Assessor, who is required to attend all hearings of the Board of Assessment Board on Grievance Day. Grievance Day hearings are recorded and minutes taken. No action or determinations will be made by the BAR on grievance day.

After Grievance Day, the BAR holds deliberations sessions and may request submission of additional information in order to make its final determination. The Assessor does not attend the deliberations of the BAR.

At the conclusion of all BAR deliberations, the BAR certifies the list of verified changes and notifies each owner or representative, in writing, of their determination and directs the Town Assessor to make all applicable assessment and/or exemption corrections to the tentative assessment roll. After the BAR has concluded all of its work and the assessor has finalized the assessment roll, petitioners to the Board of Review have 30 days to file further challenges through the state supreme court.

2017 Board of Assessment Review Summary:

In 2017, Grievance Day was June 19th and the BAR held hearings in an AM and Evening session. Fourteen property owners attended our grievance day hearings as well as the Town Assessor.

Over the course of the summer, our board held deliberations to analyze and review all submitted documentation for each grievance and made final determinations for each of the 172 filed grievances. In early September, notification letters were mailed informing owners/representatives of our determination and what further courses of action were available to them in contesting their assessment. The Final 2017 Assessment Roll was filed on September 15th, 2017 which contained all BAR certified corrections and determinations.

THE CONSERVATION BOARD

Application Reviews – the Conservation Board is part of the process in which the town reviews applications before the Planning Board, Wetlands Control Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Historic Review Board, and the Town Board. In order to have a timely input to the process, the Conservation Board assigns its members to all of the above boards and commission each month, and these members in turn present a report to the full membership at the following monthly board meeting. In 2017, the

Conservation Board prepared reports on 8 projects it reviewed for other boards and commissions.

Mapping – The Conservation Board has been involved in a number of multi-year projects involving mapping of the town. All these mapping projects have been either fully funded by grants and/or developed through volunteer efforts, supervised by qualified experts in the field of Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

In partnership with Hudsonia and the Hudson River Estuary program, the first a not-for-profit organization and the latter an arm of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, both of which have the goal of preserving the environment of the Hudson River watershed, the Conservation Board in 2017, after more than 5 years of preparation, went public on its web page on the town's website with a Biodiversity Map of Bedford. The map includes eight (8) distinct habitats found in wetlands and nine (9) distinct habitats found in uplands. While not considered a distinct habitat, the map also includes open space areas within built-up areas, such as isolated woodlands within residential properties. Besides providing a graphic representation of Bedford's current environment, the maps have been used by the Conservation Board during its review of applications before the town. This has allowed other boards and commissions to put these applications in the context of a regional review, where in the past they stood as isolated projects. As a side observation, it was calculated that Bedford is still approximately 60% open space, a benchmark to be compared to in future years.

In 2009, the town, with significant Conservation Board input, enacted legislation to protect publicly viewed ridgelines, requiring any development in these areas to be reviewed by the Planning Board. At the time, the areas identified were drawn on paper maps located in the Planning Office. In partnership with the Westchester County Planning Department's GIS division, the Conservation Board after two years of cooperative work with the county published in 2017 as part of the Biodiversity map the locations of the Ridgeline Protected areas. While not to be used as the legal definitive location map, it provides information where these protected areas can be found and alerts any landowner to the potential for town review if the site is to be developed.

The Conservation Board plans in future years to transfer the paper maps showing official wetlands delineation onto our web page for the use of property owners in understanding any projects planned that may impact these fragile and beneficial areas of the town.

Another on-going mapping project that the board has been working on for a number of years is to identify and locate through mapping all of the town's small lakes and ponds, and to provide attributes regarding such items as size, water quality, and use. Again, the hope is to provide a benchmark for comparison in future years, as well as a means of connecting all owners with these bodies of water on their property and provide them with the best management techniques to keep their ponds and lakes healthy and positive additions to the environment.

Nature Trails – the Conservation Board in 2017 continued to add digital hiking maps to its web page on the Town website, so that those interested in enjoying the outdoor beauty of our town have a readily available access to the many preserves and parks located in Bedford.

Master Plan Update – with the Planning Board and Planning Department as lead agencies, the Conservation Board in 2017 has been reviewing the existing Master Plan and making recommendations for its update.

Miscellaneous Grant Applications in 2017

Street Tree Inventory – the Conservation Board applied for and received a grant for \$50,000 from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s Urban Forestry Program to inventory street trees throughout the town. In partnership with the Town’s Finance Department, Tree Advisory Board, Department of Public Works, Planning Department, and the Recreation and Parks Department, the Conservation Board will develop an RFP for prospective bidders in 2018 to provide a comprehensive survey, including both Type 1 (general survey) and Type 2 (specific tree inventory) of many parts of Bedford. The hope is to translate this inventory into a management plan and tree planting plan that would be financed by future grants from this state agency.

Electric Car Charging Station – the Conservation Board applied for a \$16,000 grant to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s Municipal Zero-Emission Vehicle Rebate Program – Round 2 to furnish and install a Level 2 charging station at the town hall. The board is presently awaiting the results of the application.

Invasive Species Management – starting in 2016 the Conservation Board, in partnership with the private firm of Trillium Invasive Species Management Inc., obtained a grant from the Lower Hudson Partnership in Regional Invasive Species Management, an outreach arm of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, to develop a quick response effort to eradicate a newly identified invasive species called hardy kiwi, imported to the United States from northeast Asia in the late 19th century. A theory has been proposed by the state that hardy kiwi has mutated from a garden favorite to an invasive viney plant that smothers trees and shrubs, killing them in the process. Found only in 5 sites in New York State where it exhibits this invasive quality, Bedford was identified as one of these sites in 2014. This multi-year project continued in 2017 and is expected to be completed in the next 2-3 years. Each year requires the board to obtain a new grant to continue the effort. After the initial removal in 2016, the board expanded its outreach to neighboring properties not originally identified in the 2014 report. In obtaining this grant, the Conservation Board partnered with the Bedford Audubon Society, who provided publicity, as well as with Bedford 2020, who besides providing publicity, donated a complete tool kit for a 10-person vine removal crew. These tools have been used not only in this project, but in a project over the summer in 2017 where the board worked with members of Mt Kisco’s Conservation Advisory Council to remove the invasive Oriental Bittersweet, a viney plant similar to the hardy kiwi, along Byram Lake Road at Byram Lake, the sole source of drinking water for the Village of Mt Kisco, and close-by Bedford residents.

Environmental Education

Town Rain Garden – a project conceived and built by the Conservation Board in 2008, the rain garden located in front of the Town House, was given a substantial upgrade in 2017. An explanatory plaque next to the garden illustrates to the public how rainwater coming from a building’s roof can be diverted back into the ground by creating a depressed planted area for water to gather during a rain storm, rather than enter the stormwater system, carrying with it harmful chemicals and automobile byproducts.

Green Award – 2017 marked the 5th consecutive year that the Conservation Board made presentations of their Green Award at a town board meeting to Bedford individuals, schools, and private businesses and not-for profit groups who have made significant environmental contributions to our town. This award is especially important to the honorees, as it is specifically targeted to those in our community who have not been previously recognized for their work.

Pollinator Protection – the Conservation Board wrote an article that was published in the fall 2017 Bedford Recreation and Parks newsletter, highlighting the importance of preventing the loss to the environment of pollinating bees through the use of known pesticides that have been identified as contributing to the collapse of hive populations. Social Media – in 2017, the board began a project with the town board on a prototype Facebook page meant to educate the public on the work of the board, provide environmental articles of interest to the public, and promote events sponsored by the board. The board intends to go “live” with this page in 2018.

Involvement with other Bedford and New York State Environmental Groups – the Conservation Board continued in 2017 to have members sit on other town and state groups that include: Bedford 2020 Land Use Task Force, Leaf Blower Town Committee, Plastic Bag Town Committee, and the New York State Association of Conservation Commissions.

Membership – the board’s membership illustrates the compassionate commitment that residents of Bedford feel about persevering and protecting our natural environment. Our members are volunteers who have put in countless hours to not only work on the above-mentioned projects, but also have chosen for themselves individual projects that are still on going. These include:

Climate change resilience strategies

Manure management of horse farms

Humane control of the deer population

Opening up Indian Hill Town Park for gentle recreational uses

While we lost a valued member in 2016, Stan Starr, in 2017 we have a full complement of nine diverse and energetic residents that include: Simon Skolnik (chair), David Beckett (also a member of the Bedford Wetlands Control Commission), Dan Farkas, Janeen Sudaka-Karlsson, Anne “Nancy” Kronenberg, Rosemary T. Lee, Frank Pizzurro, Fred Pollack, and Betsy Weir. The board also includes as an associate member, Susan Roos. Not officially a member, because she is not a resident of our town, Louise Gantress, has been a regular meeting attendee and has contributed to many of our efforts.

BEDFORD ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Bedford, NY usually meets the first Wednesday of every month. In 2017, we dealt with 56 applications from residents who were requesting relief from the current zoning codes. We also discussed revision to the Bedford Town Ordinances with regards to Special Use Permits, Airbnb’s, signage along Route 117, horses, and bathrooms and plumbing in accessory structures mostly barns.

The Zoning Board of Appeals is a quasi-judicial body to whom residents appeal from a negative ruling by either the Building Inspector or the Planning Board regarding a project they would like to do on their property. We hold public hearings to hear a resident’s application with regard to what it is they want to do on their property and are being told that the Town Code does not permit it for whatever reason.

We deal with the applications as a “balancing test.” The right of the applicant to do what they want, weighed against the health, safety and detriment to the community. We do that by considering 5 factors: 1) will the proposed project provide an undesirable change to the character of the neighborhood or be a detriment to nearby properties; 2) can what the applicant want be achieved by another means feasible that won’t require a permit or variance; 3) will there be an adverse physical or environmental impact from the project; 4) is the project substantial (not necessarily a

mathematical number but substantial in light of the project and the property); and 5) is the alleged difficulty self-created. There does not need to be an affirmative answer to all 5. Three “yes” votes out of 5 are required to grant a permit or variance when the whole board participates.

The 5 members of the Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Bedford are: Peter T. Michaelis, Chairman; Lisa Spano, Andrea Schaefer, Clark Petschek, Esq. Meredith Black, Esq.; Board secretary, Alexandra Costello; Building Inspector, Alberto Ciraco

HISTORIC BUILDING PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HBPC)

The Historic Building Preservation Commission is the permitting board established by the Town Board to regulate and preserve the historic assets of the Town that exist outside of the two Historic Districts of Bedford Village and Katonah. Applications from town residents or their representatives who seek to alter, add to or demolish existing historic structures must appear before the Commission. In 2016, the Commission reviewed sixteen applications for alterations or additions. There were no applications for the demolition of an historical structure. All applications for alterations were approved with conditions and/or modifications. In addition, the Commission has been working on an overhaul of the existing Historic Preservation Law. Information Sessions have been held with the public and the Town Board in this regard.

BEDFORD VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT REVIEW COMMISSION

Within the hamlet known as “Bedford Village” there is an area designated as a historic district which dates from the founding of the Town in 1680 and contains a number of historic landmarks. This district is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places and is under the constant vigilance of the Bedford Village Historic District Review Commission. The commission is comprised of five members, each with a specified background or discipline. Alterations or additions to historic buildings and properties within the District shall be made with consideration for immediate context, village context and appropriate use within those contexts. Additionally, changes should seek to maintain and preserve the historic character of a property, taking care to minimize the removal or destruction of defining characteristics. In 2017, the BVHDRC reviewed applications for fences, pools and pool house, and a large house addition. There was also the weekly effort to remove offending temporary signs.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Working under the direction of the Superintendent of Recreation and Parks and the Town Historian, the Cemetery Committee works to preserve and protect Bedford’s town cemeteries. They consult with conservators to determine needed preservation projects, seek grants and funding from government and private organizations and individuals. They suggest ways to promote public awareness and support for their initiatives and identify and engage community organizations and individuals with an interest in the goals of the Cemetery Committee.

The Committee works from a 5-year master plan developed and approved by the Town Board in 2017.

This year the committee oversaw tree work and headstone restorations of 18 historic monuments in the Buxton Cemetery. In addition, an RFP was issued and completed for Phase 1 of a wall restoration at Buxton Cemetery.

In July 2017 the committee engaged and met with a cemetery consultant to assess the potential for new cremation interments at Chichester Cemetery and/or Buxton

Cemetery. If the town would like to pursue expansion, the next steps would include topographic mapping and site design.

Current Members: Chris Burdick, Lisbeth Fumagalli, William Heidepriem, Rosemary T. Lee, Patricia O'Donnell, Richard Schmitt, John Stockbridge, Jenny Weisburger

BEDFORD WETLANDS CONTROL COMMISSION (BWCC)

The Bedford Wetlands Control Commission is comprised of five residents appointed by the Town Board and has the responsibility under Section 122 of the Town Code to review permit applications for activities within Town wetlands and adjacent areas. Westchester County has the largest number of lakes and ponds of any county in New York State and eighty-five percent of the Town lies within watershed with one out of every three properties in the Town containing regulated wetlands.

While the number of full applications submitted to the Wetlands Commission has fallen over the past several years we recognize that some of this is due to the expansion of the administrative permit process which allows the permitting of certain activities without the need and expense of a full wetlands permit.

The commission and the town's environmental consultant (TEC) have been involved in providing analysis and recommendations as an 'involved agency' to the planning board with regards to the proposed subdivision by American Capital Energy at 131 Upper Pond Road. We have provided extensive comments including our concern that the project, as now planned, will inevitably result in the extinction of the last surviving population of wood turtles in Westchester County.

At the suggestion of member Fiona Mitchell, the commission is in the process of reviewing a pamphlet about the commission, its function and relationship to the community. This pamphlet is over 20 years old and in need of an update. The commission will also work on a new pamphlet that we hope will assist livestock owners in protecting wetlands and wetland buffers on their properties. Wetland buffers can be critical in mitigating the unintended effects of livestock operations on or near these regulated areas.

The TEC, Beth Evans, and members of the commission continue to expand their awareness of wetland issues by attending conferences and seminars on. Each year the TEC and the Chairman attend the annual meeting of the Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists where there is a full day of classes and working groups on wetland topics. In December, Mr. Messinger, Ms. Mitchell and Ms. Evans attended a full day program on Pond and Lake Management at the Westchester County Center and last fall Ms. Evans and Mr. Messinger attended a day of classes and presentations at the Ct. Association of Conservation and Inland Wetland Commissions. Mr. Messinger continues to attend classes and seminars on wetland and invasive species issues to maintain his certification as a level 4 Cornell Master Naturalist.

OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION COMMITTEE

The committee was formed as part of the Town's commitment to preserve open space and is comprised of a seven-member board. The importance of the committee was reconfirmed recently when an increase to the open space tax levy was approved by citizens of Bedford on the November 7, 2017 ballot. The purpose of the committee is to help purchase and preserve open space, protect our water resources and wildlife habitat and provide public access for outdoor recreation.

The committee continuously looks for purchasing opportunities in all three hamlets of the town. To date, over 90 acres have been preserved. Our current list of properties of interest (both large and small) are located along the corridors of routes 22, 172, 121

and 137 as well as Chestnut Ridge Road, Stone Bridge Lane, Harris Road, Bedford Center Road, Crusher Road, Clark Road, Buxton Road, etc.

Current members include: George Bianco (Co-Chairman), Glenn Ticehurst (Co-Chairman), Linda Martin, Tina Foster, Rosemary Lee, Diane Lewis and Roger Savitt.

COMMITTEE ON SENIORS

Our Committee's mission is to promote policies and programs designed to help keep Bedford's senior citizens healthy, vital and active. To that aim we have reviewed existing senior services and programming, and consulted with the Parks and Recreation Department and other agencies.

Joanne Marcus (social worker), and Margorie Brown joined the Committee. Joel Goren resigned from the Committee.

We met 5 times and have continued to gather information and to meet and communicate with representatives of Westchester County agencies that deal with seniors.

We became a Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services Livable Communities "Village".

We organized a Health for Life Program ("Help") for Bedford seniors, but unfortunately were unable to enroll the requisite number of attendees to run the program.

We recommended that the Board hire a part-time social worker/outreach worker. The Board approved our recommendation, and we are in the process of compiling a list of job responsibilities to recommend to the Board.

Jo Voegel, M.S., Chairperson. Marjorie Brown, Deborah Frishman, J.D., Bill Heidepriem, Joanne Marcus, M.S.W., Lea Roberts, Ex Officio, Gina Shea, M.A.T., William Smith, Ph.D., Jim Whiting

THE FILMING COMMITTEE

The Filming Committee meets regularly to devise tactics to increase the amount of filming activity in the Town of Bedford. We have investigated filming parameters in neighboring towns as well as areas that are successful in drawing productions to their towns. While outside the Zone in which productions prefer to work (25 miles from Columbus Circle), Bedford offers many assets (landscape, architecture, etc.) that would both visually and practically be a boon for productions.

Our focus is to streamline the filming process. In 2018, we will propose a revision of our Town Code and permit application to make it easier for productions to work in Bedford. Our committee will be drawing up a public relations effort which will include updating the information on the town website, the creation of a "marketing page" on the website, and outreach to location professionals in the NYC area. Our message: we want you and will work with you to make it happen!

THE DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION COUNCIL (DAPC)

The Drug Abuse Prevention Council (DAPC) is a three-town cooperative effort funded by Bedford, Lewisboro and Pound Ridge, with representatives from each town serving as Council members. The DAPC is dedicated to the concept of primary prevention, defined as a program of activities directed at improving the general well-being of the community as it relates to raising awareness about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse. We strive to promote healthy lifestyles and help create a positive and safe environment for individuals, families and the community. This is achieved by disseminating information, sponsoring workshops and presentations, and working

with various community sectors. Programs and information distributed by the DAPC focuses on the current research on drugs and alcohol, ways to identify a substance use disorder, resources for intervention, and strategies for prevention. DAPC programming also aims to strengthen protective factors and reduce risk factors associated with alcohol and drug abuse. Protective factors addressed by the DAPC over the past several years include family and community opportunities for pro-social involvement, family attachment and bonding, and positive psychological and emotional development. We will continue to assess the community's current needs to ensure pertinent factors are being addressed by future programming. In addition, we will continue our collaboration with the Bedford Central School District and Katonah-Lewisboro School District to provide prevention information, materials, and events for students and parents. Our monthly meetings are open to all community members and we continue to make progress towards our ongoing goal of recruiting additional Council members. This year's efforts included community presentations, school presentations, and meeting advertisements in the forms of email blasts, flyers and online postings. In addition, plans were made for a community education series featuring presentations, workshops, and film screenings, with the first presentation set to take place in January 2018. Current members representing the Town of Bedford include Program Coordinator, Kathryn Ferrara, Lyn Bayuk, Laurie Ciavardini, Trudie Goldmann, and Lauren Smith.

LEAF BLOWER TASK FORCE

At their meeting on December 19, 2017, the Town Board appointed a committee to develop and propose regulations for the use of leaf blowers. The committee consists of all members of the Board in addition to residents who had expressed concerns about the health, environmental and nuisance impacts of leaf blowers. The committee will engage the public in the discussion of potential regulations beginning with an Open Discussion at 7:30 pm on February 13 at the Katonah Village Library. In addition, the committee is currently forming a subcommittee comprised of landscapers and others expressing concerns about the impact of regulations, with the goal of soliciting various viewpoints. The committee hopes to have a new regulation adopted in March 2018. Committee members are, in addition to the entire Town Board, Teresa Donkin, John Fry, Helene Kopal, Peter Kuniholm, Jeanne Markel, and Fiona Mitchell.